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United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIVE FROM PARSONS, KANSAS, CHARGED IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Shannon Harris**, 28, **Adam Davis**, 28, **Franchester Griffin**, 28, **Debra Loyd**, 35, and **Joseph Riley**, 25, all from Parsons, Kansas, were charged on September 18, 2003, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas, with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine from January 1999 through September 8, 2003. **Harris, Davis, Griffin and Riley** are also charged with one count of conspiracy to maintain two places, at 2324 Washington and 2324 ½ Washington, Parsons, Kansas, for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using marijuana and crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that **Harris, Griffin, Loyd, and Riley** were arrested on September 23, 2003. Each made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, on September 24, 2003, and have been temporarily detained pending detention hearings on Monday, September 29, 2003. **Davis** is currently in state custody on other charges. No date has yet been set for his initial appearance.

This indictment follows a two year investigation in Southeast Kansas that involved drug trafficking in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The case was investigated by the Parsons Police Department, Labette County Sheriff's Office, KBI, FBI, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

Harris is also charged with three counts of distributing crack cocaine between May 24, 2002, and December 23, 2002; one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of crack cocaine on May 6, 2002; three counts of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Labette County Community College between June 14, 2002, and October 25, 2002; one

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3, 2002; one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 6, 2002; and one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine on July 22, 2003.

Davis is also charged with two counts of distributing crack cocaine on April 29, 2002, and December 23, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 26, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of St. Patrick's School on July 30, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Garfield Elementary School on November 8, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Parsons Middle School on January 17, 2003; and one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine on July 22, 2003.

Griffin is also charged with two counts of distributing crack cocaine on March 4, 2002, and March 21, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Parsons Middle School on March 14, 2002; and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of St. Patrick's School on July 30, 2002.

Loyd is also charged with two counts of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 14, 2002, and June 26, 2002, and one count of distributing five grams or more (.18 ounce) of more of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 6, 2002.

Riley is also charged with one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of crack cocaine on May 6, 2002.

If convicted, each faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Harris, Davis, Griffin, and Riley also face a maximum of twenty years for maintaining a place to manufacture and distribute marijuana and crack cocaine. Those charged with distributing crack cocaine face a maximum of twenty years. Those charged with distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school face a minimum of one year and a maximum of forty years. Those charged with distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school face a minimum of five years and a maximum of eighty years.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.